Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Intellectual Property!

"It was owned by a little old lady. Legally, that's all I can say. She still owns the intellectual property rights to her story."

"It's not the same. I was caught stealing office supplies. You, on the other hand, got caught stealing ideas."

Academic Integrity

- **Academic integrity** is the moral code or ethical policy of academia. This includes values such as avoidance of cheating or plagiarism; maintenance of academic standards; honesty and rigor in research and academic publishing.

Academic Integrity

Cuesta College's Student Code of Conduct (College Catalog pps. 52-53)

The following examples of conduct are considered unacceptable and shall constitute just cause for discipline including but not limited to removal, suspension or expulsion of a student.

1. Dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the college;
2. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records, or identification;
3. Disrupting, obstructing, or interfering with instructional, administrative, disciplinary, or other functions or activities of the college;
4. Physical abuse, threat, or assault of any person on District-owned or controlled property or at college sponsored or supervised functions; or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any such person;
5. Stealing, damaging, or attempting to steal, or to damage District property or private property on District facilities or knowingly receiving stolen District property or private property on campus.
6. Unauthorized entry into or occupancy of any buildings or other facilities owned, rented, leased by, or otherwise under the control of the college;
7. Unauthorized possession or use of any personal property or equipment of the college;
8. Violation of college policies or of campus regulations, including, but not limited to, campus regulations concerning student organizations, the use of college facilities, or the time, place, and manner of public expression;
9. Disorderly conduct or lewd, indecent, or obscene conduct or expression;
10. Failure to comply with directions of college officials acting in the performance of their duties;
11. Possession, the attempt to purchase, or use of illegal drugs, use of any alcoholic beverages, or other controlled substances.
12. Any act which is defined as a felony, misdemeanor or infraction under the laws of the State of California or which violates any duly- adopted rule or regulation of the college.

Non-students or persons not affiliated with the college who interfere, obstruct, interrupt, or detract from the operation of the college or the promotion of its educational or community objectives are subject to criminal action under the State of California Penal Code, Section 602.10.

Academic Integrity

Cuesta College's Academic Honesty Policy (College Catalog p. 53)

Academic Honesty is essential to the academic community. Students expect that Cuesta College faculty be fair, truthful, and trustworthy. Faculty expect that Cuesta College students share these same values. Students who violate these principles by cheating, plagiarizing, or acting in other academically dishonest ways are subject to disciplinary procedures. Below are some examples of academically dishonest behavior. If you are unclear about a specific situation, ask your instructor.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty:

- Copying from another student's exam
- Giving answers during a test to another student
- Using notes or electronic devices during an exam when prohibited
- Taking a test for someone else
- Submitting another student's work as your own, e.g. copying a computer file that contains another student's own work
- Knowingly allowing another student to copy/use your computer file(s) as his or her own work
- Completing an assignment for another student
- Plagiarizing or "kidnapping" other people's thoughts, words, speeches or artistic works by not acknowledging them through proper documentation

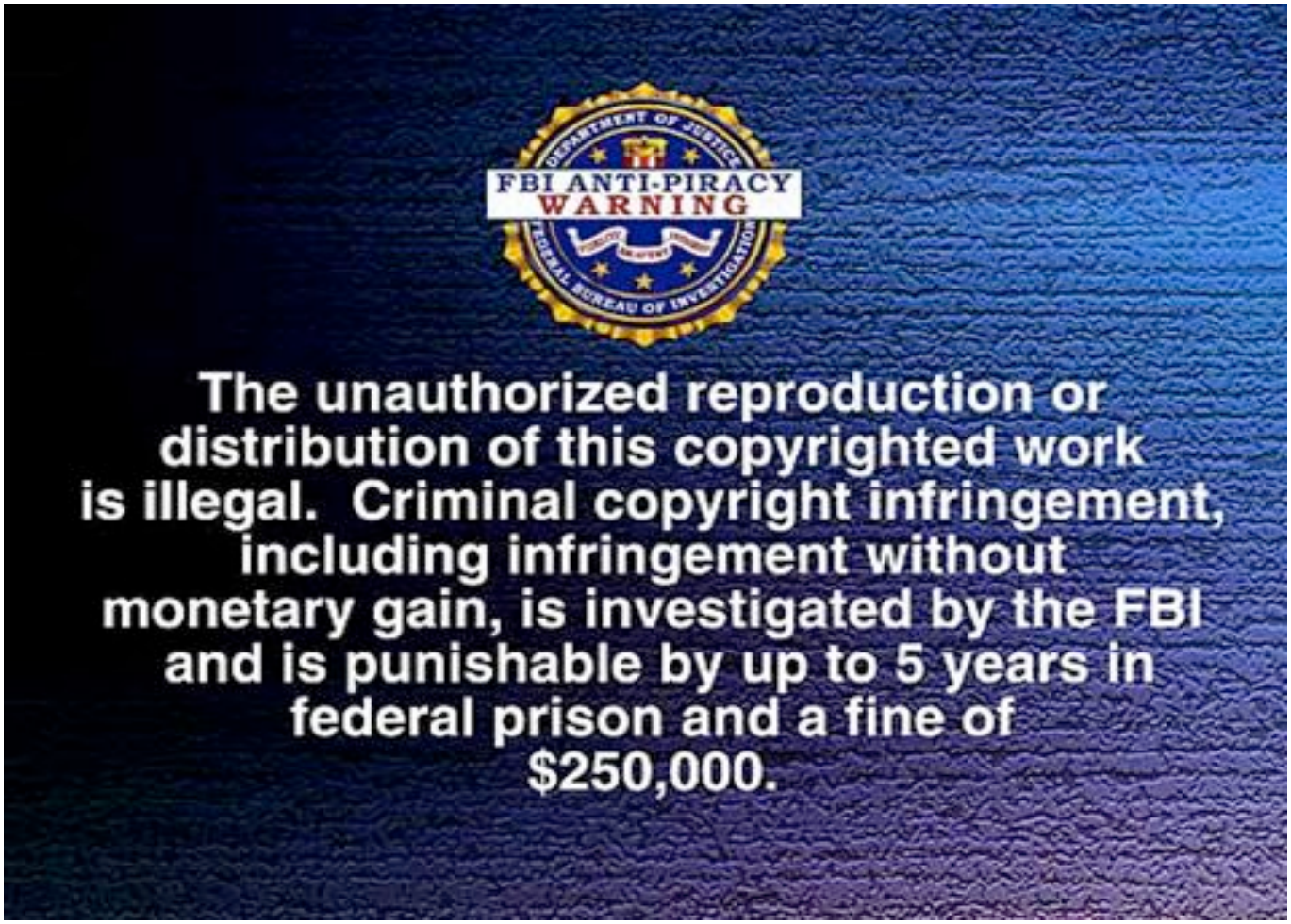
At the discretion of the instructor, students caught being academically dishonest may receive a failing grade on the assignments in question, be dropped from the class, or be failed in the course. Beyond this, the student may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Vice President of Student Services or designee. An appeals process is available to the student through the office of the Vice President of Student Services. It is recommended that the faculty member report any acts of academic dishonesty to the Vice President of Student Services or designee.

Intellectual Property

- **Intellectual property** refers to creations of the mind for which exclusive rights are recognized in law.
  - Under intellectual property law, owners are granted certain exclusive rights to a variety of intangible assets, such as musical, literary, and artistic works; discoveries and inventions; and words, phrases, symbols, and designs.
  - Common types of intellectual property rights include copyright, trademarks, patents, industrial design rights and in some jurisdictions trade secrets.

Intellectual Property

This is an example of intellectual property that I'm sure we are all familiar with. The penalties for violating these rights can be severe.


FBI ANTI-PIRACY
WARNING
The unauthorized reproduction or distribution of this copyrighted work is illegal. Criminal copyright infringement, including infringement without monetary gain, is investigated by the FBI and is punishable by up to 5 years in federal prison and a fine of $250,000.

Fair Use

- **Fair use** is a limitation and exception to the exclusive right granted by copyright law to the author of a creative work.
  - In United States copyright law, fair use is a doctrine that permits limited use of copyrighted material without acquiring permission from the rights holders.
    - Examples:
      - **Criticism and comment** -- quoting or excerpting a work in a review or criticism for purposes of illustration or comment.
      - **News reporting** -- summarizing an address or article, with brief quotations, in a news report.
      - **Research and scholarship** -- quoting a short passage in a scholarly, scientific, or technical work for illustration or clarification of the author's observations.
      - **Nonprofit educational uses** -- photocopying of limited portions of written works by teachers for classroom use.
      - **Parody** -- that is, a work that ridicules another, usually well-known, work by imitating it in a comic way.

Plagiarism

"It's not the same. I was caught stealing office supplies. You, on the other hand, got caught stealing ideas."

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Few people set out to be plagiarists. But for many students, plagiarism happens.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Why do we plagiarize?

- We're pressed for time
- It doesn't seem like a big deal
- Other people write better than we do
- We're not sure what plagiarism is all about, so we take a chance
- We believe most profs don't have the time to check on us
- We believe most profs don't have the Internet skills to figure out what we did.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

So What Exactly Is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as follows:

"The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft."

(Oxford English Dictionary: http://dictionary.oed.com)

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Does this mean I can't quote from or refer to anyone else's writing?

No, it doesn't mean that.

You can use other people's writing if you follow the right rules.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

- When Quoting, you need quotation marks and a reference, and an item in your bibliography

"Information literacy is the natural extension of the concept of literacy in our information society. Information literacy is the catalyst required to transform the information society of today into the learning society of tomorrow." (Bruce, 2002)

Bibliography

Bruce, C. (2002). Information literacy as a catalyst for educational change: A background paper. *White Paper Prepared for Unesco, the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the National Forum on Information Literacy, for use at the Information Literacy, Meetings of Experts, Prague, the Czech Republic,* 1-17. Retrieved July 14, 2006 from **http://www.infolit.org/International_Conference/papers/bruce-fullpaper.pdf**

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

When referring to an author's work, you don't need quotation marks, but you do need a reference, and an item in your bibliography

Maughan (2001) demonstrates that the information literacy gap in higher education is leaving university graduates devoid of the very skills they require to function well within the information workplace.

Bibliography

Maughan, P. D. (2001). Assessing information literacy among undergraduates: A discussion of the literature and the University of California-Berkeley assessment experience. *College & Research Libraries, 62*(1), 71-85.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

The heart of the problem of plagiarism is

MISREPRESENTATION

which breaks all the rules for using other people's work.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

In Western Society, a person's words and ideas are considered to be the property of the person who originates them.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Stealing a person's words is similar to stealing somebody's car and impressing your friends by pretending it's yours.

It's theft, but more seriously, it's misrepresentation.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Any time I leave the impression that the words or ideas I ‘ve written are mine, when actually they came from someone else, I am plagiarizing.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Because passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own is misrepresentation, it is viewed as academic fraud as well as academic theft.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

The penalties are severe – anything from a failed research paper to a failed course to expulsion from the institution. It's that serious.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

So what are the boundaries?

How do I know when I've become a plagiarist?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Some boundaries are obvious:

If I copy material from a book or article, don't use quotation marks and don't provide a citation to the source, I am stealing someone else's words and pretending they are mine.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

If I get someone else to write my paper or buy a paper from a commercial source or simply copy a whole paper off the Internet, I am clearly plagiarizing.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Other boundaries are not so clear:

What if I use a chart or some other graphic off the Internet, something that isn't really words? Is that plagiarism?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Yes it is. It is still content, even if it isn't words. As such, it is the property of the one who created it, and passing it off as yours is plagiarism.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

I plagiarize if I take something off the Internet? But isn't the Internet free for all? People post things there so other people can use them.

Ah, but you're confusing access and plagiarism. Even if people give you permission to use their material, using it without indicating the source makes it look like it's ***your*** material. That's plagiarism.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

What if I take a paragraph of text and just change a few words to make it my own? Am I still a plagiarist?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Yes you are. The problem here is a subtle one, so let's try to understand it.

When you just change a few words, the structure of the original is still there – the form of the paragraph, the arrangement of sentences, the ideas in their sequence. You may change some of the words, but you are stealing the structure.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

What if I don't use another author's words at all but I find an author that has a great idea that I don't see anywhere else. Can I use it?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Only if you create a citation to show that the idea is not yours but came from this other author. Otherwise you are stealing an idea.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

We've looked at some examples, but what ties them all together?

It's the idea of "Intellectual Property." What comes out of my mind and is communicated to others remains my property. If you use my intellectual property as if it were your own, you are plagiarizing.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

It's Starting to Look Like Everything is Plagiarism

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

What can I legitimately use as an information source without having to make a citation for it?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

- Your own ideas
- Your own analysis/evaluation of other people's ideas (once you have provided citations for the ideas themselves)
- Common knowledge – knowledge that you find in several sources that are not themselves depending on a single earlier source.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Tricky Situations and How to Get Out of Them

You are planning to use some material from a source, but you would rather not quote from it. Is paraphrasing OK?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

This depends on what you mean by "paraphrasing." By its meaning – "para" means "with" and "phrase" means (well) "phrase" - a paraphrase is a phrase by phrase rewriting of text into your own words (or mostly your own words).

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Here's an example (using my own writing so I won't be accused of plagiarism)

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

- The original:

> To argue that information literacy should have a higher place within academia is certainly not new, nor is the despair many information professionals feel about the disparity between the needs for an informationally literate populace and the amount of education in information use they are able to provide.

The paraphrase:

> To say that information literacy should be higher in university circles is not new, and neither is the unhappiness many professionals of information have when they see the difference between the needs for an information literate population and the amount of training in information they can give.

Study both for a few seconds.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

The paraphrase you looked at is just a doctored version of the original, changed a bit so it looks like something different.

But the word order, paragraph structure, and even some of the actual words are the same.

That's plagiarism. Even with the changes, the whole paraphrase is still 80% the intellectual property of the original author.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

How do you avoid the paraphrasing trap?

Simple. Don't paraphrase – INTERPRET!!

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

- The original:

> To argue that information literacy should have a higher place within academia is certainly not new, nor is the despair many information professionals feel about the disparity between the needs for an informationally literate populace and the amount of education in information use they are able to provide.

The Interpretation:

> Badke contends that the call to make information literacy a significant part of academic life is not new, and neither is the problem that the need for information literacy is greater than is our ability to meet that need.

(Note that very few of the original words were used, that the interpretation reveals an UNDERSTANDING rather than an IMITATION of the original, and that the interpretation is considerably shorter than the original.)

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

What's the difference between paraphrasing and interpreting? In paraphrasing, you are rewriting the original phrase by phrase, sentence by sentence.

When you interpret, you read the text, step back and ask, "What is this person saying?" With interpretation, you are not depending on what the author ***said*** phrase by phrase, but what the author ***meant*** overall.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Here's a simple example:

Your friend says to you, "I haven't eaten for a long time, so why don't we stop at McDonalds?" Someone nearby says, "What does he want?"

Paraphrase: "He hasn't had a meal for awhile and wants to go to McDonalds." (Changes words but not basic structure. No attempt to interpret)

Interpretation: "He's hungry and wants to get a burger." (Gets at underlying meaning)

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Tricky Situations and How to Get Out of Them

The source you are reading says it much better than you could. What's wrong with using the writer's words, if they help the reader of your paper to understand the situation better?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

There's nothing wrong with using someone else's words, as long as you quote them and create a citation (note or reference) to the source.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Better still – Quote a short portion (no more than 4 or 5 lines) and present the rest as your ***own*** interpretation:

"Quotation, blah, blah." Brown goes on to argue that the real answer to this problem is…etc. (Brown 2004)

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Let's Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

Original source: The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

Your paper: The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Plagiarism

It quotes the source without any indication that the words are not yours.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Let's Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

Original source: The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

Your paper: "The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense." (Smith 2006, p.42)

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Not Plagiarism

You've used quotation marks and cited the source so that no one believes that these are your own words.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Let's Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

Original source: The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

Your paper: Smith (2006, p.42) argues that providing online courses in information literacy is hard work.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Not Plagiarism

You've interpreted without quoting, have cited your source, and have not used a great deal of the original terminology.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Let's Practice: Are the Following Plagiarism or Not?

Original source: The effort required to provide online information literacy instruction is intense.

Your paper: The work needed to provide online information literacy teaching is intense.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Plagiarism

Your version is a paraphrase of the original with a lot of the original terminology still there as well as the same sentence structure.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

To sum up

It's plagiarism if you use any text or ideas from another source in such a way that you leave the impression that the material is yours.

Unless you know the information is common knowledge (found in several sources that do not depend on a single original source), using it is plagiarism.

When in doubt, provide a citation.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

One more thing:

You may have heard of people who plagiarized and didn't get caught.

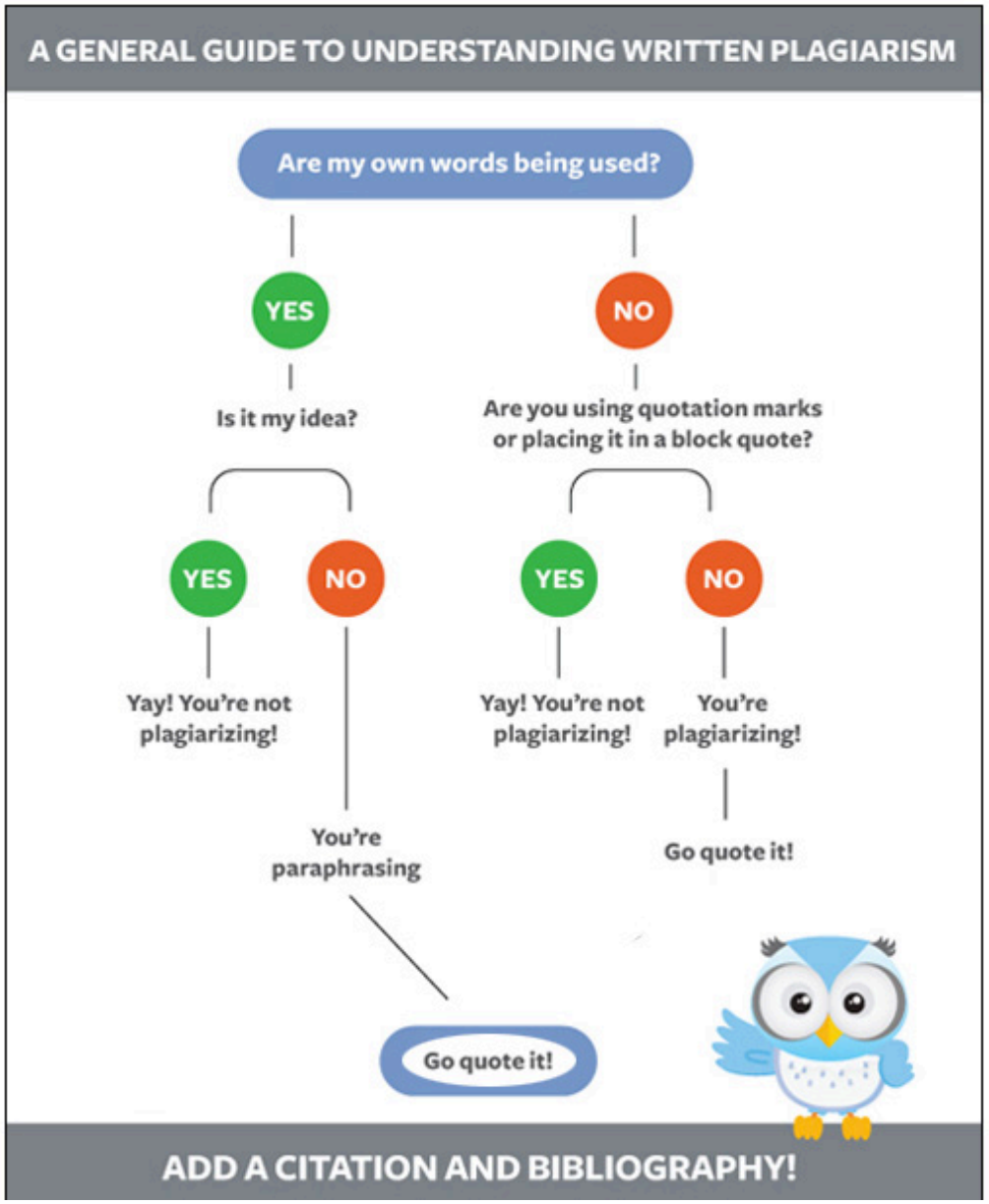
Do professors really check for plagiarism?

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Yes they do, and a surprisingly large percentage of plagiarism is busted.

Plagiarism: How to recognize it and get it out of your life!

Do yourself a big favor:

Keep plagiarism out of your life.

How can Plagiarism be avoided?